



C-SPAN's "Supreme Court Week" Debuts October 4, 2009

--Original 80-minute Feature on Supreme Court--

**--Exclusive interviews with Nine Current and Retired Justices—
--TV production and video-rich Website--**

Washington, DC (September 3, 2009) – On October 4th, just as the U.S. Supreme Court opens its new term and welcomes new Justice Sotomayor, C-SPAN invites Americans to tour the Supreme Court building and hear directly from the Justices during the network's newest special feature series, "Supreme Court Week."

C-SPAN's "Supreme Court Week" debuts on October 4 at 9 PM (ET) with an 80-minute original feature documentary on the Supreme Court, described mostly through the commentary of the Justices who serve there. Over the following week, C-SPAN will air its exclusive one-on-one interviews with nine current and retired Justices in their entirety - the first time so many Justices have granted interviews for a television production.

The documentary, produced by C-SPAN's Mark Farkas, focuses on the Court's iconic home, built in 1935 with the urging of William Howard Taft -- the only U.S. President to later serve as Chief Justice. The production offers rarely-seen video of areas accessible only to the Justices and their staffs, including the Justices' "Robing Room" and Private Dining Room. Viewers will have extensive views of the Courtroom and visit some of the Justices' offices, known as "chambers." Chief Justice Roberts describes the Court as "the prettiest building in Washington."

C-SPAN president Susan Swain explains, "The Court, and the Chief Justice, granted C-SPAN extensive access to their iconic building and to themselves. Viewers will have a rare opportunity to hear the Justices talking about the role of the Court, its traditions, and its history."

"The Supreme Court: Home to America's Highest Court" completes C-SPAN's original feature documentaries on the symbolic homes of the three branches of American government: "The White House: Inside America's Most Famous Home" debuted in December 2008; "The Capitol" premiered on C-SPAN in July 2006.

Supplementary and behind-the-scenes content for "Supreme Court Week" is available through social media platforms (Twitter @cspan, Facebook, and YouTube). C-SPAN has also created a video rich website for the series <http://www.c-span.org/supremecourt/>.

****** C-SPAN today is releasing a YouTube video timed for Justice Sotomayor's first appearance on the bench next week ****** (her investiture is Sept. 8 as she participates in her first oral argument on the campaign finance case before the Court on Sept. 9). The YouTube video contains excerpts from interviews conducted with Supreme Court Justices in which they discuss:

- how new Justices affect the Court
- first days on the Court
- being a female Justice

Media are invited to quote the Justices from C-SPAN's YouTube video for news, analysis, commentary, and other editorial purposes – and may do so immediately -- but must credit C-SPAN for any content taken from it. The C-SPAN YouTube video also may be embedded on your website but may not be reproduced as your own video, neither may excerpts from C-SPAN's YouTube video be incorporated into another embeddable video. Link to the YouTube video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wUfl9-cwJt4>

About Mark Farkas: Mark Farkas brings a quarter-century of C-SPAN feature productions to this project. In addition to his projects on the U.S. Capitol and the White House, Mr. Farkas was executive producer for C-SPAN's 1999-2000 Peabody Award winning series "American Presidents: Life Portraits;" the 1998 "Alexis deTocqueville Tour" and 1994's "Lincoln-Douglas Debates."

About C-SPAN: C-SPAN was created by America's cable companies in 1979 as a public service and programs three public affairs television networks; C-SPAN Radio, a Washington, D.C. radio station distributed by XM Satellite Radio; and a video-rich website. Visit www.c-span.org.

"Supreme Court Week" Schedule:

Sun, Oct. 4, 9 pm: "The Supreme Court: Home To America's Highest Court"
Mon, Oct. 5, 9 pm: Lyle Denniston, SCOTUSblog, & Joan Biskupic, USA Today
Tues, Oct. 6, 9 pm: William Suter, Clerk of the Supreme Court
Wed, Oct. 7, 9 pm: Jim O'Hara, Supreme Court historian; Frank Gilbert,
Grandson of Justice Louis Brandeis
Thurs, Oct. 8, 9 pm: Drew Days III, Solicitor General, Clinton Admin, & Maureen
Mahoney, former SC Law Clerk and Private Attorney
Friday, Oct. 9, 9 pm: Justices Kennedy, Ginsburg, Scalia & O'Connor interviews
Sat., Oct. 10, 9 pm: Justices Breyer, Thomas, & Alito interviews
Sun, Oct. 11 9 pm: Justices Roberts & Stevens interviews
Mon, Oct. 12, 8 pm: "The Supreme Court: Home To America's Highest Court"